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Approved For Release 2003/12/23 : CIA-RDP61S00750A000100050012-1

9 August 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: SPECIAL ASSISTANT, INTELLIGENCE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G-2
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
DIRECTOR OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE,
HEADQUARTERS, USAF
DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR INTELLIGENCE
THE JOINT STAFF
ASST. TO THE DIRECTOR, FBI

SUBJECT: Debriefing of Returning Government Officials

1. Under IOP No. 2 CIA has the responsibility for providing, on a centralized basis, facilities and arrangements for the debriefing of returning Government officials for the benefit of the IAC agencies.

2. A review of the performance of this debriefing process has led this Agency to the conclusion that:

a. The major objective of debriefing should be to obtain the most intelligence for the right people rather than to obtain general information for a large number of people. Present procedure achieves the second objective and the number of persons present at current debriefings operates against securing maximum intelligence for the benefit of the specialist.

b. Therefore it is believed that, since the State Department and the Defense intelligence agencies are currently arranging debriefings of their returning officials for their own purposes, the extension of the opportunity for debriefing these people in the parent agency to one or two highly specialized persons from each of the agencies would be most efficient and provide maximum satisfaction and benefit.

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3. It is proposed that:

a. The State Department and the Defense Department should, within their discretion, notify each other and CIA of such Government officials returning from abroad within their jurisdiction as are of intelligence interest and indicate the schedule for debriefing within the parent agency. In cases where no debriefing is scheduled the agencies will indicate the availability of such personnel for separate debriefing by the interested agencies.

b. In order to achieve the informality that is essential to a profitable debriefing attendance at such meetings will be limited to not more than two representatives from any agency other than the host agency.

c. Special interviews required by highly specialized interest should be arranged as may be warranted through the established liaison,

d. Where CIA receives knowledge of returning non-CIA officials it will inform the IAC agencies in order that they may be represented at debriefings of these officials.

4. Your concurrence or comment on the foregoing proposal would be appreciated by the close of business, Tuesday, 14 August 1951.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE:

JAMES Q. REBER
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

cc: [redacted]

Mgt Officer
Central Records
OIC file

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